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San José Celebrates Earth Day at City Hall

San José, CA – Celebrate Earth Day at City Hall and learn how to “green” your lifestyle or your business. This free lunch-time event will take place at San José City Hall Plaza, 200 E. Santa Clara Street, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, and will include a Farmers’ Market, live entertainment, food, and a Marketplace of Environmental Ideas. Residents, business owners, and downtown employees are welcome to stop by to enjoy the festivities and to learn more about San José’s Green Vision.

- Join the Earth Day Bike Ride on the Guadalupe River Trail with Mayor Chuck Reed (rally at City Hall Plaza at 11:30 a.m.).
- Take the San José Green Vision Environmental Pledge and receive a free reusable shopping bag.
- Enjoy live entertainment by Celtic Soul, Movimiento Cosmico, Nguyen Dance Company, The Mumlers, and the Lincoln High School Mariachi Band.
- Get a preview of the 2008 San José Downtown Farmers’ Market with locally grown fruits and vegetables, organic cheeses, spices, baked goods, natural soaps, jewelry, cut flowers and more.
- Stay for a tasty lunch from Chic Chateau (vegetarian, savory, and sweet crepes), House of Lumpia, Carmen’s Taqueria, or Conquista-Dogs.
- View the peregrine falcons nesting atop City Hall and learn more about these birds from the UC Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group.
- Join a Downtown Walking Tour (starts at 12:30 p.m. at the Public Art booth).

Earth Day at City Hall will showcase many of the programs available to help residents and businesses reduce their carbon footprint. Explore how you can protect the environment through recycling, composting, taking alternative transportation, conserving water, protecting the watershed, becoming more energy efficient, and building green – and learn how all of these efforts will help San José achieve its Green Vision and become a sustainable city.

In the spirit of Earth Day, this will be a Zero Waste Event. Zero Waste maximizes recycling, minimizes waste, reduces consumption, and ensures that products are made to be reused, repaired, or recycled back into nature or into the marketplace. All food and drinks will be served in recyclable containers or compostables (products made from sugar cane and corn) and special bins will be available to collect them. One of the San José Green Vision goals is to recycle or reuse 100% of our waste and become a Zero Waste city by 2022.

About San José's Green Vision

San José's Green Vision is an ambitious and comprehensive 15-year plan to solve environmental problems and grow the local economy. Focused around three elements – Clean Tech Innovation, Sustainability, and Green Mobility – San José's Green Vision is a roadmap for the City to become the world's center of Clean Tech innovation.

The Green Vision sets 10 bold goals through which San José will lead the nation in becoming more energy efficient, producing and using electricity from clean renewable sources, creating green buildings, diverting waste from landfills, creating greener street systems, delivering recycled water, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. For more information, please visit: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/pdf/SanJoseGreenVision.pdf>

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